

Ld. Mulgrave Memorandum
Enclosure

3505

No time should be lost in erecting a Battery of
twenty four Pounders & another of Muzzlers on the Berry
Head for the Defence of Torbay as those Batterys would
make it dangerous for a Fleet to attempt getting into
Torbay with a westerly wind which is the Time the
French would be most likely to attempt it & that the
Defence of that Head would be of the greatest Importance to them
— a respectable Body of Troops (perhaps two thousand)
should be encamped in the most advantageous Situation
between the Berry Head & the River Dart to prevent
the French taking Possession of Torbay & Dartmouth

Harbour without some such precaution should the
event of the Action not be very decisive on our side
they might easily in the present deperate situation
of that Port get footing there & by erecting the batteries
which we had neglected secure their Fleet in a very
good head we from Inult or attack under Circumstances
that would make the Attack of them very disadvantageous.

From the Nature of the Country should they make a
Lodgement there with a Body of Troops they might
secure the Possession of Weymouth & Dartmouth Harbour
for the winter & have the best part of Devonshire open
to their Attacks. Dartmouth Harbour would be of
infinite consequence for their Engagements. Dartmouth

Should immediately be put in a Proper State of Defence
by a Detachment of Artillery as well as Troops

Portbay & Dartmouth Effectually secured there is no
shelter ^{on our coast} for the Enemy's disabled Ships with a westerly
wind after an Action in the Channel.

Batteries should be erected (particularly one or two
Garrison Batteries) on Portland & about beach near Weymouth
to prevent the Enemy from availing themselves of Portland
Road in Case of a Gale of Wind but no great Force
will be necessary as ~~no~~ a Descent is not to be
apprehended there or that they should attempt to
make a Permanent Lodgement; the Advantage however
which they might derive from that Road in its present
undefended State should not be neglected or it may be
so easily provided against.

Devonsey Bay in Cornwall is a Place where
part of their Fleet might perhaps find Shelter
but there is not Room for the whole, this might I
imagine be secured by a Battery or two but of this I
only judge by the Dragoons never having been there

These places being secured the whole south coast
would be in a situation effectually to preclude
the Shaking part of our ^{from that Shelter} enemys Fleet, which
would enable them in a very short time to put
their Ships in some state of safety by repairing
their Damages ^{& Effectually} more conveniently than can be
done at Sea.

Sept 1779